(b) if so, the numbers of reactors that have been imported and the likely cost of the reactors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Setting up of Light Water Reactors based on co operation with US is planned.

(b) A pair of reactors is planned in the first instance. This will be followed up with additional reactors at the same site after the work on first two reactors tapers off. No reactors have been imported as yet and details including costs, are yet to be worked out.

Representation for flood moderation and river training

*217. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has made any representation for flood moderation and river training in Brahmaputra and Barak valleys;

(b) if so, the details of outlays, allocation and achievements made so far; and

(c) the future plan of Government to combat erosion and flood level in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has submitted the schemes for Flood Moderation and river training works in Brahmaputra and Barak valleys for inclusion under the Flood Management Programme (FMP) under which Central Assistance is provided as grant to the State Governments during Eleventh Plan for undertaking Flood Management Works. 82 numbers of eligible schemes of Assam with a total estimated cost of Rs. 708.59 crore have been included under the programme. Till November, 2009, an amount of Rs. 223.829 crore has been released to State Government of Assam under FMP towards approved schemes. As informed by State Government of Assam, above mentioned 82 schemes are under progress and are targeted to benefit an area of 557 thousand Hectare.

(c) Brahmaputra Board has been constituted under an Act of Parliament in January, 1982 under Ministry of Water Resources for planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra Valley and for matters connected therewith. With a view to chalk out the future plan to tackle the problem of floods and erosion in Assam, Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Concept Note on future course of action for Bank Stabilization of river Brahmaputra in consultation with expert organizations/institutions including IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati. The modalities are being worked out for carrying out mathematical model studies in collaboration with IIT Guwahati.

Telecom spectrum licence scam

*218. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked the CBI to probe the alleged scam in allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences made by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in Jaunary, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Sir, as per information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), they have entrusted the case regarding allotment of second generation telecom spectrum licences to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 12.10.2009.

CVC has conveyed that the Preliminary investigation by it has shown following irregularities:

(i) Entry fee for Unified Access Services License (UASL) issued to new entrants during 2007 was the same as decided during the year 2001 on the basis of a bidding process.

(ii) There is no mention of 'First-Come-First-Served' (FCFS) Policy in the guidelines issued by Department of Telecommunications for issuance of UASL and website of the Department also does not contain any information about this policy.

(iii) FCFS Policy has not been followed by the Department.

(iv) There was no-lock-in period for the licensees for off-loading of their stakes, which enabled the licensees to offload their stakes at an early stage.

Reactions of Government on Preliminary investigation by CVC are as follows:

(i) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the decision of then Government, the Unified Access Services (UAS) licences are being granted continuously on First-Come-First-Served (FCFS) basis since introduction of UAS licensing regime in November 2003 at the entry fee for the 4th Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licence(s) awarded in 2001 & in service areas where there were no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 based on TRAI's recommendation. Based on this policy, 51 new UAS licenses/LoI(Letter of Intent) had been issued till March 2007.

TRAI in its recommendations dated 28.08.2007 has not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence. Accordingly, Government continued with the existing entry fee structure for UAS licences and 122 new UAS licences were issued in 2008. The fact that TRAI had not recommended any change in the entry fee for UAS licence, is also evident from TRAI's letter dated 26th May 2008 to Department of Telecom (DOT) conveying that keeping in view the objective of growth, affordability, penetration of wireless services in semi-urban and rural areas and principle of level playing field and opportunity for equal competition between the incumbents and new entrants, the TRAI recommended the same entry fee as was taken from the fourth cellular operator for grant of CMTS license in the year 2001.

(ii) In consonance with New Telecom Policy (NTP) 1999 & TRAI recommendations, the Guidelines for Unified Access Services (UAS) licences issued on 14.12.2005 are the extant guidelines for grant of new UAS licence. All UAS licences issued in year 2008 are governed by these detailed guidelines. These guidelines, *inter-alia* stipulate that "Licences shall be issued without any restriction on the number of entrants for provision of Unified Access Services in a Service Area." When entry conditions are fixed and licensing is being done without any restriction of number of licences, there can not be any other transparent method other than the method of First-Come-First-Served basis. The Parliament was also informed of this policy from time to time in reply to questions raised therein.

(iii) DOT (Department of Telecom) has been implementing a policy of First-Come-First Served for grant of UAS licences under which initially an application which is received first will be processed first and thereafter if found eligible will be granted LOI and then whosoever complies with the conditions of LOI first will be granted UAS licence. This stand of DoT regarding the award of UAS Licenses on first come first served basis was clarified by Press release dated 10.01.2008 and accordingly, the UAS licences were granted in year 2008.

(iv) As per the UAS licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005 and the provisions of the UAS licence agreement, there were no lock-in-period/restriction on sale of equity/ issuance of additional equity shares by the licensee company. Such transactions including the ceiling limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) were subject to extant guidelines of the Government/Statutory Bodies.

There were news articles regarding sale of equity by two new telecom licensee companies. However, these companies informed DOT that their shareholder/promoters have not sold the equity and the investments have been brought in by their foreign partners by subscribing to additional equity which would be used for rolling out the services.

Government, in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), decided that there shall be a Lock-in-period for sale of equity of a person whose share capital is 10% or more in the UAS licensee company on the effective date of the UAS licence till completion of three years from the effective date of the licence or till fulfillment of all the rollout obligations, whichever is earlier, subject to certain other conditions. In this regard, necessary amendment of the UAS licence agreement(s) has been issued on 23.07.2009.

The above issues alongwith certain other issues are presently before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in writ petition No. 7815/2008 in the matter of Dr. Arvind Gupta Vs UOI & others and the matter is sub-judice.

Financial assistance for RTI

*219. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: